

Egypt

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 S E C R E T/SANDY CIRCUIT/WHP115//IMMEDIATE
 FOR : GENERAL SCORCROFT
 FROM: BG SVENDSEN
 SUBJ: EGYPTIAN MILITARY ATTITUDES

1. ON MONDAY, 29 MARCH, I DISCUSSED CURRENT USG ADMINISTRATION ACTIONS TO GET CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL FOR FMS SALES OF THE SIX C-130 AIRCRAFT TO EGYPT AND STRESSED PRECEDENT-SETTING SIGNIFICANCE OF FMS APPROVAL. PRESUPPOSING THIS ACTION SUCCESSFUL, I ASKED MAJ GEN MOHAMED SHANKET, DEP DIR MIL INTEL, WHETHER THE IMPACT OF THESE C-130S WOULD SHOW SUFFICIENT USG SUPPORT TO SATISFY EGYPTIAN MILITARY. (FYI: PRESIDENT SADAT RECENTLY MADE AN ANTI-SOVIET STATEMENT THAT HIS SOVIET MILITARY EQUIPMENT WOULD BE SCRAP IRON IN ONE AND A HALF YEARS. END FYI). GENERAL SHANKET SAID THE PRESIDENT'S REMARKS CREATED SOME CONCERN AMONG THE ARMED FORCES BUT THAT PRESIDENT SADAT'S RECENT TRIP TO THE CANAL, WHERE HE REMAINED ABOUT NINE DAYS, VISITING FORCES AND TALKING TO COMMANDERS, HAD PUT THE PROBLEM IN PERSPECTIVE AND REINFORCED MILITARY SUPPORT OF THE PRESIDENT WHO THEY (FORCES) KNOW HAS THE MILITARY'S BEST INTEREST AT HEART. GENERAL SHANKET STATED THAT THE MILITARY IS NINETY PERCENT BEHIND PRESIDENT SADAT AND THAT THE ONLY PROBLEMS THEY EXPERIENCE ARE WITH SOME OF THE PEOPLE WHO COME IN (TO THE MILITARY SERVICE) FROM SCHOOLS AND UNIVERSITIES WHO HAVE BEEN EXPOSED TO COMMUNIST INFLUENCE. BUT, HE SAID, QUOTE, WE ARE WATCHING THEM VERY CLOSELY UNQUOTE. SHANKET SAID THE OFFICER CORPS IS SOLIDLY BEHIND GENERAL GAMASY, MINISTER OF WAR, WHO IS THEIR READILY ACKNOWLEDGED AND HIGHLY RESPECTED LEADER. MOST IMPORTANTLY, SHANKET STATED THAT THE C-130S WOULD BE THE IMPORTANT FIRST STEP AND AN AMPLE INDICATION OF US SUPPORT DURING 1974 AND THAT THE MILITARY IS PREPARED TO WAIT UNTIL 1977 FOR FURTHER ACQUISITIONS OF US MILITARY HARDWARE. MEANWHILE, HARDWARE ACQUISITIONS FROM WESTERN EUROPE DURING 1976 WILL SATISFY EGYPTIAN MILITARY CONCERNS. COMMENT: GENERAL SHANKET'S REMARKS INDICATED PRESIDENT SADAT WAS FENCE-MENDING WITH HIS TROOPS, EXPLAINING HIS "ONE AND A HALF YEAR SCRAP IRON STATEMENT" AND HIS RECENT SPEECHES IN WHICH HE ADMONISHED THE MILITARY ON THEIR

REFER TO DOS

***** WHPR COMMENT *****

SCORCROFT, NYLAND, MCPARLANE, RODMAN

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HOLE TO STAY OUT OF POLITICS AND STICK TO THE DEFENSE OF THE CONSTITUTION. GENERAL SHAWKET SEEMED VERY CONFIDENT THAT C-130 DELIVERY THIS YEAR WOULD SATISFY EGYPTIAN MILITARY ATTITUDES AND THAT THE MILITARY UNDERSTOOD AND TRUSTED GENERAL GANASY'S WORDS THAT IT WAS NECESSARY TO GO SLOW AND NOT RUSH THE AMERICANS IN 1976.

2. I HAVE SENT THE ABOVE PARAGRAPH FRONT CHANNEL, BUT BELIEVE IT MAY BE OF VALUE TO YOU DIRECTLY.

WARM REGARDS.

ODS 31 DEC 84

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